

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF VITAL STATISTICS. YEAR 1938.INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Preliminary Report of the Acting Government Statist on Vital Statistics for the Year 1938. The particulars for 1938 are subject to slight revision. A detailed analysis of the Statistics will be given when 1938 had the lowest rate of infantile mortality in the world and also the lowest rate ever recorded in any Country.

The population of South Australia in 1938 was 1,140,678. The infantile mortality rate is the number of deaths of infants under 1 year per 1000 births.

For several years, New Zealand has been the only other Country with a lower rate. The previously lowest rate for the world was 30.96 in New Zealand in 1936, in which year South Australia was very close with 31.09, and for 1938 South Australia has still further reduced the rate to 30.50.

Generally speaking the other Australian States have a good record.

For the years 1932 - 1936, the New Zealand rate averaged 32, South Australia 34, Australia 41, Netherlands 42, Norway 44, Switzerland 48 and Sweden 50. Among other countries were - United States 59, England and Wales 61, Germany 71, France 73, Italy 105, Japan 120, British India 170 and Chile 252.

The following figures show the improvement in the South Australian rate :- 1875-79 149; 1895-9 110; 1905-9 69; 1915-19 62; 1925-29 47; 1930-34 38; 1935 35; 1936 31; 1937 33; and 1938 30½. Most of the improvement has taken place in the rates for children above one month and under 12 months.

of 25½ in the previous year. Since 1935, when the rate was 9.35 (8.91). Commencing with 1932 there has been a general, though irregular, fall in the death rate until 1933, when the rate of 8.44 was the lowest on record. The rates for the last 5 years have been higher again, though irregular.

H. L. SEMMENS,

Statistical Office,

ADELAIDE.

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ACTING GOVT. STATIST.

There was a decrease of 30 in the number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age, the number being 237 (297). The infantile mortality rate of 30.50 (33.05) is believed to be the lowest for any country in the world, the previous lowest being 30.96 for New Zealand in 1936, in which year South Australia was very close with 31.09. The rate in this State is only about half the rate 30 years ago, and was about the rate around 1900.